

written before on the structure of government; and, in a great measure, relieves our regret, if the political writings of Aristotle, or of any other ancient, have been lost, or are unfaithfully rendered or explained to us. My most earnest wish is to see the Republican element of popular control pushed to the maximum of its practicable exercise. I shall then believe that our Government may be pure and perpetual. (To Isaac H. Tiffany, 1816. C. VII., 32.)

DEVICE.—A proper device (instead of arms) for the American States would be the father presenting the bundle of rods to his son, with the motto,

*"Insuperabiles si
inseparabiles"*

(Proposed arms for the United States, interesting as being the earliest reference to the "American States." Written in Jefferson's copy of the Virginia Almanac for 1774.)

DISSENSION.—Political dissension is doubtless a less evil than the lethargy of despotism, but still it is a great evil, and it would be as worthy the efforts of the patriot as of the philosopher to exclude its influence if possible from social life. The good are rare enough at best. There is no reason to sub-divide them by artificial lines. But whether we shall ever be able to perfect the principles of society as that political opinions shall be as inoffensive as those of philosophy, mechanics, or any other may well be doubted. (From a letter to Thomas Pinckney, 1792. F. VII., 128.)

DISUNION, DANGER OF.—I can scarcely contemplate a more incalculable evil than the breaking of the Union into two or more parts. Yet when we review the mass which opposed the original

coalescence, when we consider that it lay chiefly in the Southern quarter, that the Legislature have availed themselves of no occasion of allaying it, whenever Northern and Southern prejudices have come into conflict, the latter have been sacrificed and the former soothed; that the owners of the debt are in the Southern and the holders of it in the Northern division; that the anti-federal champions are now strengthened in argument by the fulfilment of their predictions, that this has been brought about by the Monarchical Federalists themselves, who,